

20

REPORT

OF THE

CHINESE HOSPITAL,

AT

SHANGHAE,

FROM JANUARY 1ST, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1849.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

PRINTED AT SHANGHAE :

1850.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the friends of the Chinese Hospital at Shanghai, was held on Tuesday, January 29th, 1850.

Present : Rutherford Alcock, Esqr., H. B. M. Consul, James White, Esqr., Revd. Drs. Medhurst and Bridgman, Revd. John Stronach, A. G. Dallas, Esqr., Thomas Moncrieff, Esqr., J. H. Winch, Esqr., E. Webb, Esqr., Revds. E. W. Syle, W. C. Milne, and Joseph Edkins ; A. Wylie, and W. H. Medhurst, Esqr.

Rutherford Alcock, Esqr. was requested to take the Chair.

The Treasurer's account was presented.

The Report of the Hospital and the account of expenditure was also presented, when it was proposed by James White, Esqr., seconded by E. Webb, Esqr. ' That the Treasurer's account, and the account of expenditure of the hospital be passed, and the report of proceedings for the past year now read, be adopted by this meeting, and printed for general circulation.'

It was proposed by Thomas Moncrieff, Esqr. seconded by W. H. Medhurst, Esqr. ' That the Committee, consisting of T. C. Beale, A. G. Dallas, C. Shaw, and W. Lockhart, Esqrs. be requested to continue their services for another year.'

It was proposed by Revd. E. W. Syle, seconded by Revd. W. C. Milne. ' That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Lockhart, for his successful management of the hospital during the past year, and also for the very interesting detail of facts contained in his report, just read.'

There being no other business before the meeting, it was proposed by Revd. W. H. Medhurst, seconded by J. H. Winch, Esqr. ' That the thanks of the meeting be given to Rutherford Alcock, Esqr. for presiding over the business of the meeting.' After which the meeting separated.

(Signed)

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
CHINESE HOSPITAL, SHANGHAI,
From January 1st, to December 31st, 1849.

The work of the hospital has been carried on during the last twelve months, as in former years ; with the exception of a short time in the autumn, when indisposition prevented regular attendance on the patients, though the hospital was not, at any time, wholly closed. In the last report mention was made of the fact, that much sickness was the result of wet summers in this locality, and this has been especially the case in the past year : during the whole of the spring and summer months, much rain fell ; more than has fallen at these seasons for many years : the consequence was that the ground was kept constantly wet : the cotton planted in the vicinity, and throughout a large district of country around, indeed almost everywhere to the south of the Yâng-tszè-këang, was destroyed to a great extent, and rice grown in its stead, wherever it was practicable ; but even this could not be done in many places, for large tracts of land in the interior were completely under water for several weeks, the rivers and canals not being able to carry off the surplus waters. This state of things had a very injurious effect on the health of the inhabitants, who suffered severely from sickness ; bilious remittent fever and dysentery being the most prevalent forms of disease ; and from these diseases large numbers of the natives died.

Many of the European residents suffered from the same diseases, and some deaths occurred among them in September and October ; dry weather however set in early in the autumn, which materially tended to destroy the seeds of disease ; and as the frost commenced, both Chinese and Europeans rapidly regained their health.

Notwithstanding the circumstance of the past autumn being so unhealthy, it is not sufficient to cause this place to be considered as on the whole insalubrious ; for even in Europe, sickness prevails at times to a great extent ; and during the past year, typhus fever and scarlet fever have committed fearful ravages in some places, far surpassing anything we have seen here ; and while cholera has been carrying off immense numbers of people in other parts of the world, we have thus far been mercifully preserved from its ravages. It is quite true that ague, diarrhœa, and dysentery afflict the Chinese to a great extent, and debilitate them very much during certain seasons ; still, considering the habits of the people, they appear to have as good health, as could be expected under the circumstances in which they live. The cities are always in a most filthy state, being undrained ; and all those canals, into which the tide does not rise, are filled with putrid matter of every kind ; these are seldom or ever cleaned, and it is a subject of considerable surprise, that the inhabitants can live at all among so much filth in the canals, in the streets, and in their own houses. Several Europeans have had to leave Shanghae at various times on account of sickness, and return to their native land, finding that the climate did not agree with their constitutions ; but it must be remembered, that they are like exotics in a foreign soil ; all cannot with impunity remain, and sometimes even those who appear to be the strongest, are the first to fail. It is now six years, since the port was opened, and the mortality among the foreign residents has on the whole been below that which usually happens, especially in newly-occupied localities, where there are always many things that militate against the enjoyment of a good state of health.

For the purpose of further extending the benefits of the hospital, a dispensary has been opened at the London Missionary Society's chapel within the city of Shanghae, at the back of the Ching-hwang-meaou or city temple, commonly

called the tea-gardens : this is attended to twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the attendance of patients has been satisfactory ; many shop-keepers and others, who perhaps could not go so far as to the hospital outside the city, attend here : it is intended that this dispensary shall be continued, if possible, so as to try the experiment fully.

Among the cases worthy of comment, is one of amputation of the forearm, in consequence of severe laceration of the hand and wrist, by the bursting of a gun on board a junk, during an action with pirates. The operation was performed while the patient was under the influence of chloroform : the flaps united by the first intention, making a good stump, and the man very soon left the hospital.

In February last, a man about 27 years old was admitted, who ten days previously had been most barbarously beaten by order of the Chinese officers, to the extent of 100 blows with the smaller bamboo, on the thigh and leg of the right side ; mortification of the limb had made considerable progress, followed by extreme exhaustion, and he died during the night after his admission. He had been in perfect health up to the time of his punishment, and was a strong robust man of the working class, but the blows had been inflicted, as severely as possible, with the edge of the flattened bamboo commonly used, and the parts struck had been so extremely mangled that gangrene at once supervened. There are two bamboos used on such occasions, a larger and a smaller one ; they are made from a section or slice of a large bamboo, about three and a half inches wide and five feet long, which is then flattened by having all the joints smoothed down, and the whole instrument is made thick or thin as may be required. With the large bamboo, only 40 blows can be inflicted at one time, at least such is said to be the law ; but if the officers wish to punish a prisoner very severely, though the punishment may be directed to be inflicted with the smaller instrument only, still the blows are given with considerable force, and even

with the bamboo held edgewise ; thus causing most agonizing pain, and inflicting much injury on all the parts that are so struck, namely, the calves of the legs and the backs of the thighs just above the knee, so that 100 such blows frequently cause death. Persons have frequently come to the hospital who have been beaten by the policemen, and in all cases a large slough of skin and flesh has had to be removed, so that the muscles are often exposed ; and this punishment appears to be frequently inflicted for very trivial offences, the amount of the punishment depending less on the flagitiousness of crime, than on the amount of the fee which the offender can pay, while suffering the bastinado. In front of the magistrate's office, prisoners are often seen, whose faces have been shockingly mangled, by blows inflicted with a piece of hard leather, like the sole of a shoe ; the lower jaw is occasionally broken, and even death caused by the excessive swelling of the neck, resulting from this punishment. Some weeks ago, several men were seen thus exposed after punishment ; one of them had his face much injured, and his lips severely cut against his front teeth, which were broken by the blows, and the man had fallen down in a state of syncope.

To shew the utter recklessness of Chinese patients regarding their health, the following case may be related. A man came to the hospital, very anxious to have a large tumour taken away, which was situated on the forehead, near the outer margin of the orbit, and being pendulous, was very troublesome to him, and prevented him using his right eye ; he was told that it could be easily removed, but that he must stay a few days in the hospital ; this he said he could not do, and went away ; a few days afterwards he returned, saying, that he had made arrangements with a friend to take his place on board the junk (he being a sailor), and that he could stay as long as necessary. The man was put under the influence of chloroform and the tumour removed ; the following day considerable tumefaction of the side of the face

came on ; this subsided in some slight degree by the third day, when he again said he could not stay longer in the hospital, as the junk was going away ; on his being remonstrated with for this deception, he said, that he had only promised to stay, that the operation might be performed, as that was all he wanted ; he was told that he would not be restrained from going away if he insisted on it, but that if he must leave, he did so at serious risk to his health, and also to his eyesight, and that he must not suppose that because the operation was easily performed, that therefore he could go about as usual ; after much conversation on the subject, he promised to stay, and he was left in the ward in bed ; however a few hours afterwards it was found, that he had opened the window, and gone off, taking his bedding with him, and has not since been heard of ; and even if he got well, without any untoward accident from inflammation, the wound of the operation, which was four inches long, must, from want of care, have healed very irregularly. This same heedlessness is very frequently manifested by patients with diseases of the eye ; repeatedly patients apply, being afflicted with severe catarrhal ophthalmia, extensive ulceration of the cornea, &c. ; they are attended to, and told that unless they come regularly every day, they will lose one or both eyes. They will attend for a day or two ; the disease may perhaps be a little relieved, and then they will not return for five or six days ; when the disease having returned with increased violence, and the eye being permanently injured, they are asked, why they did not come every day ? and the usual answer is, either that they had not leisure to do so, or it was inconvenient to come so frequently : on being told that their eyes are now seriously injured, and one, or as sometimes happens both, destroyed ; they then say, they are sorry they did not do as they were told, but that they had not time to take care of their eyes. This was remarkably shewn, a short time ago, in the case of a respectable young man, who was in a good situation ;

he had severe catarrhal ophthalmia, and was told to come for medicine every day; he came for a few days and the virulence was checked; he was then absent for eight or ten days, and at this time the corneæ of both eyes had sloughed away, and the eyesight was completely destroyed; he said that he thought his eyes were better; and though he knew, for he had been told, the consequence of irregular attendance, he had business at some distance from Shanghae, and thought it necessary to attend to it, hoping to be able to return at once. In the meanwhile the disease had returned with increased violence, and now he was completely blind, and bitterly lamented the effects of his folly and inattention.

In the list of patients, a great number of persons are reported who have sought relief from the habitual use of opium; more of this class of patients have been seen during the past year than at any former time, no doubt from the means used having been found useful; many of these applicants have not had resolution of purpose sufficient to carry them through the process of treatment, and have lapsed into the use of the drug again; but on the other hand, a large proportion of them are believed to have persevered, and wholly broken off the habit which they had acquired. Among these was one young man, the son of an officer at Hang-chow, and himself a candidate for office; he applied at the hospital and said he wished to stay there till he got well; he had, according to his own account, been in the habit of using eight drachms of the drug daily; his health was consequently very much injured by this excessive use of opium, he was wholly unable to fulfil the duties of his station, and thus all prospect of advancement was closed to him, while he remained in this state; he steadily prosecuted the plan prescribed for him, and in six weeks left Shanghae, much improved in health and able to live without using the drug at all; his chief fear on leaving was, lest he should be attacked with ague on his return to Hang-chow, and then he did not know

what he should do without the opium pipe ; however medicine was given to him and he was encouraged to resist his tendency to return to his former habit, which he promised to do. On his departure, he begged permission to place a tablet in the hospital, expressive of his gratitude for the benefit he had received : he has since written, saying that he was well, and also sent some of his friends to be relieved as he was. It is the custom of Chinese physicians to prescribe the use of the opium pipe in cases of obstinate ague and rheumatism ; and no doubt this means is useful in alleviating distress and pain for a time ; but the patient, though relieved of these diseases, is left dependent on opium for the rest of his life ; so that the cure is worse than the disease ; and in many of the cases, the first incitement to the use of the drug arose from its being recommended as a palliative, for the relief of pain or distress of some kind or other, and the habit once acquired, it has become almost impossible to discontinue it.

It may be interesting in this report to mention the following circumstance. About three miles to the westward of the hospital, at the village called Tsing-gnan-sze, there is, in front of a temple, a pit or well, about eight feet square, and ten or twelve feet deep, faced with blocks of limestone, and enclosed by a good substantial paling : there are about three feet of water in this well, and from the bottom bubbles up a large quantity of gas, so that the appearance is as if a large quantity of water was being constantly thrown up : the people call it 海眼 Hae-gnan, or eye of the sea, and say that the water neither increases nor diminishes, nor ever runs out : the fact is, the water that is in the well is merely drainage, and the gas rises through it ; on descending by means of a ladder to the water and holding a light over the agitated surface, the bubbles explode with a light blue flame, and this continues all the time the light is applied. The gas may easily be collected by means of a bell-glass and bladder ; the water has a slightly brackish taste, but small fish

were noticed swimming about in it ; the gas is no doubt carburetted hydrogen, and probably emanates from a layer of peat or coal at some distance below the surface. The villagers make no use of the water for any purpose, and appeared to be much surprised when the gas was ignited ; they did not seem to be at all aware of its inflammable nature.

In concluding this report, it may be remarked that while the object of efforts such as this, is to alleviate pain and relieve human suffering in various forms, still there is a further object ; this is but a means to an end ; that end is to shew unto this heathen people the blessings of the Gospel, and to declare unto them that there is a God who alone is worthy of their adoration ; to shew unto them that they are sinners in His sight, and that there is one only way by which they can gain pardon—through Christ who is mighty to save. May the Lord bless all efforts that are made to advance his own glory, and enable us year after year to do more for him, and to be an example before this heathen people, of righteousness and truth, that indeed we may be Christians, not only in name but in all sincerity and seriousness.

ABSTRACT OF OBSERVATIONS by the Thermometer, in the open air, in a shaded situation with a southern exposure ; the maximum by day, and the minimum for the night, taken by a self-registering Thermometer.

1849	Maxm. by day	Minmm. by day	Maxm. by night	Minmm. by night	Average by day	Average by night
January	60	30	45	17	46	33
February	63	40	48	30	49	41
March	72	40	56	31	54	42
April	75	45	64	33	61	49
May	87	60	68	47	72	58
June	84	69	75	60	75	66
July	95	73	79	64	84	73
August	96	77	80	70	88	76
September	89	70	77	60	79	71
October	80	57	66	37	73	56
November	73	46	55	31	60	45
December	72	42	54	25	54	37

LIST OF PATIENTS,

FROM JANUARY 1st, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1849.

Intermittent fever	636	Fractures of tibia and fibula	4
Cough	573	Do. do. compound	3
Asthma	236	Do. humerus	1
Hæmoptysis	92	Do. radius and ulna	9
Phthisis	39	Dislocation of shoulder	2
Dyspepsia	987	Do. irreducible	2
Dysentery	279	Disease of hip joint	4
Hæmatemesis	60	Do. elbow joint	1
Hæmaturia	6	Do. shoulder joint	1
Jaundice	55	Suppuration of knee joint after	
Anasarca	91	a fall	1
Ascites	30	Necrosis of part of tibia	1
Rheumatism	620	Caries of lower jaw	2
Rheumatic enlargement of joints	24	Destruction of lower jaw	1
Scrofulous do. do.	7	Do. bony palate and nose	3
Paralysis	15	Gun shot wound through the	
Epilepsy	26	liver (fatal)	1
Opium-smoking	734	Do. hip joint (fatal)	1
Suicide by opium	1	Do. abdomen, hip and thigh	1
Attempted do. do.	2	Do. hand and wrist (amputation)	1
Surditas	21	Do. various parts of body	6
Erysipelas	4	Large slough of thighs, after the	
Abscess	130	bastinado	3
Do. in theca	9	Large slough of scrotum and	
Ulcers	243	protrusion of testicle	3
Hernia	53	Do. of nates in children	2
Hydrocele	15	Excessive epistaxis	2
Concussion of the brain	2	Polypus nasi	4
Wounds	92	Popliteal aneurism	1
Stabs with knives	4	Psora	280
Contusions	169	Psoriasis	200
Accidental amputation of thumb	1	Porrigō	74
Burns	10	Do. decalvens	22
Fistula in ano	14	Do. lupinosa	16
Do. in perinæo	1	Lepra	180
Excrescences round anus	48	Elephantiasis	16
Prolapsus ani	25	Leprosy	34
Syphilis	110	Tumours of neck	8
Soft nodes of bones	6	Carcinoma of breast	2
Fractures of spine	3	Fungus hæmatodes on neck	1
Do. ribs	4	Sarcoma testis	7
Do. ribs and arch of lower jaw	1	Catarrhal ophthalmia	197
Do. of neck of femur	1	Chronic conjunctivitis	224

Granular lids	360	Loss of both eyes	46
Do. opacity	279	Do. one eye	82
Do. pannus	193	Contraction of tarsi	64
Do. leucoma	104	Fistula lacrymalis	4
Ulceration of cornea	164	Trichiasis	150
Conical cornea	58	Entropium	103
Staphyloma	34	Ectropium	37
Amaurosis	22	Lippitudo	195
Cataract	18	Pterygium	176
Hypopion	10	Malignant ulceration of eyelids	1
Synechia	20	Fungus hæmatodes of eyeball	1
Irregularity of pupil	44	Destruction of eye from fall on	
Closure of do.	8	a cup	1
Hernia iridis	6	Vaccination	40
Total number of individual cases			<u>9,020</u>

The bulk of the above cases are out-patients, some of the more serious cases only remaining as in-patients.

The Committee desire to acknowledge the following donations of medicines &c., for the hospital.

Received from G. Brandis, Esqr. two pieces of long cloth.

Received from Dr. Coldstream of Edinburgh, a small supply of medicines.

Received from the Ladies' Association at Hackney, in aid of Medical Missions, medicines to the value of £10.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

TO CHINESE HOSPITAL, SHANGHAE, FOR 1849.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.		Dols.
Rutherford Alcock, Esq.		25
A. G. Dallas, Esq.		25
Messrs. Dent, Beale & Co.		25
„ Thomas Ripley & Co.		25
Thomas Moncrieff, Esq.		25
James White, Esq.		25
C. D. Mackenzie, Esq.		25
Messrs. Wolcott, Bates & Co.		25
A. MacCulloch, Esq.		20
E. Webb, Esq.		20
A Friend		20
Rev. W. H. Medhurst		10
R. P. Saul, Esq.		10
L. Shadwell, Esq.		10
Rev. Dr. Bridgman		10
John H. Winch, Esq.		5
Joseph Bland, Esq.		5
Chinese, Tung-yu		10
„ 二如 Urh-joô 品元		10
„ 嘉林 Young Alam 馮福		5 335
DONATIONS.		
Harry Lind, Esq.		25
Rev. John Lowder (the late)		10
A Friend per J. B. Ross, Esq.		10
Per Rev. John Hobson		10
From Crescent Chapel, Liverpool		44 99
	Dols.	<u>434</u>

L. & O. E. Shanghai, 31st December, 1849.

CHARLES SHAW,
Treasurer.

DR. CHINESE HOSPITAL, SHANGHAE, IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE TREASURER. Cr.

1849		Dols.	1848			Dols.
Feb. 9	To paid Mr. Lockhart	200	Dec. 30	By Cash in hand, per account rendered		30
May 5	„ Messrs. Turner & Co. interest to 28 April, 1849, on dls.500. @ 8 per cent per annum, on debt to them	40	1849			
Nov. 16	„ Messrs. Turner & Co. to account of money borrowed from them (leaving dls.400. still unpaid)	100	January to } „ Sundry annual subscriptions for 1849			335
			December } „ per list			
			„ „ donations for 1849 per list			55
Dec. 31	„ Mr. Lockhart	124	„ „ Cash received as a donation from Crescent Chapel, Liverpool, through the London Missionary Society			44
		<u>464</u>			Dols.	<u>464</u>

1849
Dec. 31 To this amount due on the Hospital, being money borrowed, at interest, from Messrs. Turner & Co.] 400

E. and O. E.
Shanghai, 31st December, 1849.
CHARLES SHAW,
Treasurer.

Audited by T. C. BEALE.

